



The Honorable Laura Cox  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

June 5, 2018

Re: SB 897 (Substitute 2): "Med. Assistance Work Requirements"

Dear Representative Cox and the House Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of people with cystic fibrosis (CF) living in Michigan, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation opposes SB 897 (Substitute 2): "Med. Assistance Work Requirements" which would add work requirements as a condition of Medicaid eligibility and a lock-out period for failure to comply.

Cystic fibrosis (CF) is a life-threatening genetic disease that affects 30,000 children and adults in the United States. CF causes the body to produce thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs and digestive system, which can lead to life-threatening infections. As a complex, multi-system condition, CF requires targeted, specialized treatment and medications. Medicaid is a crucial source of coverage for patients with serious and chronic health care needs, including over 200 adults living with cystic fibrosis in Michigan. **Given the role that Medicaid plays in helping this patient population access the high-quality care and treatments they need to maintain or improve their health, we urge you to reject this proposal as it would create additional barriers to eligibility and access to medically necessary benefits.**

Making work a condition of Medicaid eligibility could threaten access to care for people with CF, as their ability to work can vary over time with changes in health status. While many people with CF work full or part-time, declines in health status due to pulmonary exacerbations, infections, and other events are common and can take someone out of the workforce for significant periods of time. Patients also bear a significant treatment burden on a daily basis, amounting to hours of chest physiotherapy, delivery of nebulized treatments, administration of intravenous antibiotics, and/or other activities required to maintain or improve their health. As such, maintaining sustained employment may not be possible due to the time required to undergo necessary treatment.

We also strongly oppose the proposal to lock an individual out of Medicaid for one-year should they fail to meet the work or reporting requirements. For people with cystic fibrosis, consistent care and access to specialized therapies is a necessity and any loss or gap in coverage may put people with CF at risk of declining health. Implementing a lock out period for people with a life-threatening condition like CF because they were unable to satisfy work requirements is excessively punitive and prioritizes spending cuts to Medicaid over patients' access to care.

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation appreciates your attention to this important issue. As the health care landscape continues to evolve, we look forward to working with the state of Michigan to improve the lives of all people with cystic fibrosis. Please consider us a resource moving forward.

Sincerely,

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CC: House Appropriations Committee  
Governor Rick Snyder